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DRAMAtical Murder re:code - Morphine Route; Part 14 Translation

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SUMMARY

The escape plan.

Aoba
..., ...ugh!

I can't stop my tears, and just like that, I unwillingly step out of the room.

If not, it'd be even harder to part with Sei.

Aoba
Ugh...

I press my back against the closed door, trying hard to suppress my sobs.

Aoba
Ugh... , argh...

Sei is... He closed his eyes slowly, as if he'd fallen asleep.

The sorrow feels like it's attempting to crush my chest into dust.

... But, there's no time to cry now.

I don't want to waste Sei's effort, who'd been sacrificing so much to save all of us.

I need to go.

I walk away from Sei's room, then walk towards the red door.

I wipe my tears as I walk, then opening up the mailbox in my Coil.

From now onwards, the systems in the tower will be shut down. I quickly send a mail to tell Mizuki that I'd be heading off to save Granny now.

He replies almost immediately, telling me to leave the Dry Juice members and Koujaku and the others to him.

After that, he'll be taking out the van from the parking basement to get us out of the tower.

After reading the mail, I hurriedly mail him again, reminded of something important.

"I leave Ren to you too".

He returns an "understood" after I sent the mail.

I walk out of the red door, back to the long corridor, then stand in front of the elevator.

Sei told us to "leave here immediately".
i wonder when it will happen...?

As I stare at the time on my Coil, the alarm goes off.

... It's here.

I run into the elevator, then return to the research floor.

The alarm continues ringing in the research floor, the once quiet corridor is now packed with anxious people.

The researchers, shocked by the sudden chaos, look around the corridor, as if trying to figure out what is going on.

I try to escape their gaze, being the only weird one out of all of them, and run towards the opposite direction.

All the locks are released thanks to the system error, all the doors that were once blocking the corridors are all opened now.

I run along the corridor, finding a room at the edge of it. ... is this room the one Sei mentioned earlier?

The room has a door that's different from the rest of the room. It doesn't seem like it's made of the same material either, the thickness way more prominent than the others.

It must be this room then. The identification monitor by the door displays an error message on it.

I should be able to enter now. With that thought, I step towards the room, opening the door with ease, and coming to face another door again. I open it again.

As I walk through both the doors, I immediately see a person in white, with his back facing me.

Researcher
... !

When the researcher turns around to look at me, he shrieks and aims something towards my direction.

... It's a small-sized gun.

He must be confused, and is about to shoot me.

Aoba
...ugh.

I immediately run towards him, hitting him on the body before he could respond to anything at all.

Researcher
Uwaa!

The researcher falls from the impact, his gun slips out of his hand. I hastily grab the gun and aim it at the researcher's direction instead.

Aoba
Go now! Faster!

Researcher
Hiii...!!

The researcher raises his face, makes a distorted expression, then runs clumsily out of the room.

I put the gun aside and look around the room.
Where is Granny?!

Tae
Aoba..?

Aoba
!

...She's there!

Granny sits on a chair in one deep corner of the room.

Aoba
Granny!

I hurriedly run towards Granny. Granny wants to stand but immediately stumbling back down.

Aoba
It's dangerous!

I stretch my hand to support her small body. Granny looks at me with a face of relief.

When I look closely at Granny's face, I hug her tightly, without able to suppress my overwhelming emotions.

Aoba
Granny... I'm glad, you're fine.

Tae
Aoba...

But, this is no time to be submerging ourselves in a touching reunion. I pull myself away from Granny, looking at her face again.

Aoba
Granny, can you walk?

Tae
Yeah, but what is happening...

Aoba
I'll explain later! Let's go!

I grab onto Granny's hand, then walk towards the door leading out of the room.

I'm anxious because we're running out of time, but I try not to walk too fast at the same time.

Tae
Aoba, you...

Tae
...You didn't give up.

When I hear those words, I stop my pace and look back at Granny.

Aoba
...

Upon doing that, I nod.

Aoba
...Yeah.

I bring Granny out of the room, there's no one in the corridor.

Everyone on this floor must have been evacuated.

Even so, without letting my guard down, I walk carefully towards the elevator with Granny.

The elevator seems to have stopped functioning thanks to this situation.

Aoba
Granny. Is there a staircase on this floor?

Tae
Yeah. There's a door just beyond the elevator.

I immediately take Granny's hand, then walk towards the door she mentioned.

I open the door, immediately seeing a staircase leading downwards.

We'll meet up with Mizuki at the basement so we need to hurry.

There's no telling how long we need to walk down the stairs but it's far better than simply standing around doing nothing.

Aoba
Granny, are you okay?

Tae
I'm fine.

We walk down the stairs, I occasionally look back to check on Granny's situation.

Granny presses her lips, and, as if trying her best not to pull me back, she keeps walking.

I grip her hand firmer upon seeing that, and, taking note on not to walk too fast, we continue walking down the stairs.

Thanks to the closed doors, we can only vaguely hear the alarms from the outside. But, it never seems to be stopping any time soon.

I wonder if Mizuki is okay?

I hope Koujaku and the others as well as everyone from Dry Juice are okay too...

Aoba

..., ...

Tae

..., Haa...

The sign board on the wall showing the floor we are in slowly decreasing as we walk, both Granny and my breathing becomes more and more harsh with every passing minute.

It's better than having to walk up the stairs but continuous walking down like this is taking a toll on our stamina too. It's harsher for Granny than myself, though.

We try our best to make our way down the stairs, then, we hear some sort of chaotic noise from above us. There are footsteps of people anxiously running down.

Tae

Aoba...

Aoba

Shh...

I pull Granny to my back, defending her, then turn to face the source of the commotion.

Soon after, a man in white robe runs his way down towards our direction. It's a different man from the one that I'd threatened with the gun earlier.

Researcher

You all...!

When the man sees us, his expression darkens, his hand slips into his pocket, retrieving something.

Aoba

...tch!

I immediately kick towards his direction, aiming at the man's wrist.

Researcher

Uwa.

With a voice, something hard falls on the ground, rolling by my feet.

It's a small-sized gun. ... Again, huh?

I pick the gun up, casually raising it and pointing it at the direction of the man's forehead.

Aoba

Go first. But, forget about us. If you're to tell anyone about us... I'll find you, and make sure that you'll never be able to wake ever again.

Researcher

I-I understand, I'll not tell anyone...!

The man raises his hands with a pale face, then hurriedly runs down the stairs.

Aoba

... Haa.

I put the gun on the floor and release a sigh. When I look at Granny, I see that there's a frown in between her eyebrows.

Tae

Aoba, you...

Aoba

...

I've said something harsh to threaten the man just now.

But, I wouldn't have said that if it was me from the past.

As I thought, I'm slowly being influenced by him.

Granny has been looking after me all this while after all, she must have noticed this change of mine.

... I'll explain to her later on what has happened before this.

Aoba

I'll explain everything later. Anyway, Granny, is it hard walking down the stairs?

Tae

That kind of thing...

Without waiting for her to finish her words, I crouch in front of her and have my back facing her.

Aoba

Come on.

Tae

W-what is this? Are you going to carry me?

Aoba

Yeah, faster.

Tae
Even if you don't do that...

Aoba
Now, Mizuki is heading off to save Koujaku and the others.

Tae
...

Aoba
We need to go back together. So... let's hurry up too.

Tae
... Okay then.

Slowly, I feel Granny's gentle weight against my back.

Aoba
Let's go.

With that, I slowly stand up, with Granny on my back.

After gaining balance, we slowly make our steps down the stairs, I'm able to walk faster now that I've gained control of the pace.

... Now that I think about it, I've been carrying Granny quite frequently recently.

That time when... I thought Granny had collapsed so I hurried towards Delivery Works.

It feels like a memory from a very far past.

Tae
... Aoba.

Aoba
En?

When she calls me, I look back a tad, without stopping my pace.

Tae
Thank you.

Aoba
...

I can't see Granny's expression with the position I'm in, but I can clearly hear her voice.

Aoba
Hold tightly onto me, okay?

I walk down the stairs with Granny on my back, it doesn't feel tough at all.

Rather, there's only relief upon knowing that Granny is now by my side; it gives me immense strength to keep moving forward.

Once the sign board on the wall shows the floor of the basement, I get out of the floor through the door by the staircase.

I'm familiar with this corridor now, so I put Granny down.

Similar to the research floor, there's no one in the corridor at all. The alarm continues ringing, the voice of the announcer continues vibrating in the space.

I send a mail to Mizuki on my Coil, telling him that "I'm in the basement with Granny".

His reply comes immediately, telling me that he'd "instructed" the Dry Juice members to get onto the car he'd prepared, that Koujaku and the others are safely rescued as well.

After that, he tells me that they're now in the parking basement.

Aoba
Granny, this way.

I take Granny's hand, walking on the corridor towards the direction of the parking basement.

A bit more. Just a bit more.

Then we can all go back together.
To the Old Resident District.

Once I set foot into the parking basement, I immediately look around for Mizuki and his car.

In the depth of the parking basement, in front of the shutter leading towards the Old Resident District, two vans stop with their engines running.

Someone is standing by the van, and the moment he notices me, he runs towards me.

Mizuki
Aoba!

Aoba
Mizuki!

Granny and I walk closer towards where Mizuki is running towards us.

Mizuki
I'm glad that you're fine!

Aoba
You too!

Mizuki pats me on the shoulder with a smile. But, the moment he sees Granny by my side, his expression goes down.

Mizuki
...Tae-san.

Tae
...

Mizuki
...I'm sorry. I...

Tae
None of these matters now. Let's go back first.

Granny interrupts Mizuki's words. But, her voice is gentle.

Mizuki
...

Mizuki bows at Granny without a word, then returns his gaze towards me.

Mizuki
Aoba, hurry, go into the car.

Aoba
Okay.

We walk towards the van. And, at that time.

Virus
Huh? Could it be that's Aoba-san over there?

Trip
Haha, we found Aoba.

Aoba
...!

I thought things are okay now so I let my guard drop a tad, the voice from behind me has shivers running down my spine. Mizuki shows an anxious expression on his face.

We slowly turn around, facing the two persons standing behind us.

Aoba
Virus, Trip...

Virus
Aoba-san, are you going out now? Oh.

Trip
... Huh?

As if noticing something, both of them scrutinize my face, then exchange gazes between each other.

Virus
Could it be that... Aoba-san, have you returned to your usual self?

Trip
Some-how, it feels like that, huh?

Aoba
...

Virus
Your grandmother is with you and him over there... seems like he's back to normal too.

Mizuki
...

I step one step towards them, protecting Granny.

But, they don't seem like they're at all bothered by our actions as Virus shrugs, looking over at Trip.

Virus
Aoba-san's power released them, right? As we thought, the real thing is far better than anything else.

Trip
As we thought, Aoba is the best.

Virus
All the main systems in the main tower are destroyed as well, there's no way they could be fixed, it's about time everything comes to an end.

Trip
Right?

Aoba
...?

I couldn't grasp what they're trying to say with their conversation as I stare surprisingly at them, Virus looks at me with a chuckle.

Virus
Aoba-san, you're going back to the Old Resident District, right? It's about time for us to leave too.

Aoba
You're coming to the Old Resident District too?

Virus
No. We will head out to find some other interesting things around. Aoba-san has returned to your usual self, after all.

Trip
See you then, Aoba.

Virus
Aoba-san, please take care of yourself. Let's meet somewhere again in the future.

Aoba
... Huh?

I couldn't catch up with their pace at all and before I could they'd casually bid their farewell at me, I could only watch as they walk away.

Aoba
Are you going to... let us escape?

Hearing my unintentional whisper, both of them look over their shoulders at me.

Virus
Letting you escape, that kind of thing.

Trip
We don't like to bet on things that we have no chance of winning, after all.

Virus
We were wondering if Aoba-san would eventually fall to our side.

Virus
This is the end for Toue. And Aoba-san has returned to normal too, there's no meaning for us to stay here any further.

Aoba

...

Trip

See you then.

Throwing such vague statements at us, both of them leave the parking basement, as carefree as they always are.

Mizuki

... Would they be okay? If we leave them like this.

Mizuki seems to be surprised with both of their words as well, the confusion is thick in his voice.

Aoba

... I don't quite understand it either, but seems like they're letting us go... Let's go then.

Mizuki

... You're right.

If they're to come after us, it'd be trouble.

We quickly run towards the direction of the van.

There are two of them, one of them is filled with Dry Juice members, so we get into the other one.

Koujaku

Aoba..!

Clear

Master!

Aoba

Koujaku, Clear! Noiz and Mink too...!

Mink

...

Noiz

..., You look surprisingly energetic.

Koujaku and Noiz sit at the back seat, and further behind sits Clear and Mink. Everyone looks exhausted but it seems like they're all fine.

I let Granny in first, then sits by her side.

...Where's Ren?

Mizuki

Look at what's under your seat.

Mizuki seems to have noticed how I've been looking around anxiously, so he speaks to me from the passenger seat.

I look at him reflexively, then shifting my gaze to where he'd guided me too, finding my bag.

I take the bag up, opening it.

Aoba

Ren...!

Inside the bag, lies the blue fur, one that's very important to me.

I activate Ren, who's in sleep mode.

Ren

...Good morning, Aoba.

Aoba

...ugh.

I bring Ren up, pressing our foreheads together.

Aoba

Good morning, Ren...

Mizuki

... Let's drive out of here.

Mizuki looks at me with a smile, then talks to the man on the driver seat. The van slowly moves out.

... We're going back now.

As i think about that, I'm reminded of Sei.

Sei...

Aoba

...

With my forehead still pressed against Ren's, my tears start dropping.

Ren licks the tears off my cheek.

...Sei.

... Thank you.

- ...*Thank you* -

As if overlapping with my own voice, the voice of “the other me” resounds in my head.

Sei

...

Toue

...

Toue

... You’ve done it now, Sei.

Sei

...

Toue

There’s no way we could save the main system. Not only that, you’ve destroyed the emergency backup program too, I see.

Toue

Everything I’ve done are now... gone.

Sei

... You’ve, lost.

Toue

...I won’t reprimand you for being a bad child now. The result is as what it is. I’ll accept it with no complaints whatsoever.

Toue

But, to do something like this... Have you ever wondered if that would get yourself killed?

Sei

Killed?

Toue

If I want to quickly stop the spread of the system error, all I need to do is to kill you off. That should kill off all the “conscious” you’ve spread out too.

Toue

Have you ever considered of the possibility of me... asking someone to kill you off if something like this is to happen?

Sei

... You didn't do that, right?

Toue

Why would you think so?

Sei

... It's a hunch from long years of consideration, perhaps? We've always been together after all...

Toue

...

Sei

I'm only a "tool" for your research. That's why you cherish me so much. But...

Sei

Until today, at the very least, I'm still a living hope for you. Even if I'm just a requirement for your research.

Sei

... That's, not wrong, right?

Toue

..., that's true.

Sei

Then, as I thought, you would never ask anyone to kill me.

Toue

...

Toue

... Just a bit more, then I should be able to bring my research to another level.

Sei

...i don't dislike your way of living... that, putting your research before your life way of living.

Toue

Rather, now that I've lost the pillar of what I've been working on, I've also lost the meaning for my living. I've lost this game. Losers would only need to step out of the game. From the board that is the world.

Sei
The way you did things are wrong. But...

Sei
For some reason, I... can never hate you.

Toue
It doesn't matter even if you're to hate me.

Sei
... I want to ask this, for one last time.

Sei
Why did you bring Aoba to meet Tae-san... and his friends?

Toue
You've such a bad habit to eavesdrop on other people.

Sei
You knew that would affect the balance of Aoba's state of mind, right? Even so, why did you do it?

Toue
... Isn't it interesting to be able to see things progressing in a way you expect it to be?

Toue
Winning is not everything. I want to challenge it. To challenge all the obstacles and troubles I am to face.

Toue
Challenge it, then winning it is more meaningful than anything else. I simply wanted to challenge Aoba-kun.

Toue
I wanted to see how would the poison I created work. If it'd strengthen Aoba's heart, or waver it.

Toue
As a result, I've lost this challenge.

Sei
... That's so sad.

Toue
What do you mean by that?

Sei
You really think of everything as a game. Your research, your life, everything.

Toue
What else is there but this?

Sei
...

Toue
That aside... this is such a waste. You and Aoba-kun. If I could bring the both of you together, my research will...



Sei
... Isn't this enough already?

Sei
You have me now, after all.

(■■■■■■■■■■ DRAMAtical Murder re:code [■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■] ■■■■)